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(pp. 402-404). The original exists in Sir William's handwriting, and is here published for the first time. Information regarding the great increase in the export of furs from New Orleans after the cession of Canada, appears in reports from the governor of Louisiana and the governor of West Florida (pp. 209, 439).

Some light is thrown on monetary conditions in the interior at this time. A Jesuit father quotes the high prices in New Orleans to justify the estates maintained by the order (p. 95). Paper money was in circulation. Colonel Bradstreet abolished it in the region where he commanded (p. 345). The bad conditions prevailing in New Orleans because of the old paper money, *billets*, are set forth by Governor Dabbadie to the Ministry at home (p. 318), and his successor, Aubry, in 1765 describes the utter demoralization in the colony due to the confusion in finances; he adds, "It is time, my lord, that the Spaniards arrive" (p. 436). Bills on New York were at an exorbitant premium in Mobile (p. 465).

The care with which this material has been grouped into chapters, thoroughly indexed, and illuminated by a special introduction and footnotes, makes it an admirable example of scholarly editing.

AMELIA CLEWLEY FORD.

Milwaukee-Downer College.

The Financial Administration of the Colony of Virginia. By PERCY SCOTT FLIPPIN. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Series XXXIII, No. 2. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1915. Pp. 95.)

This monograph is another product of the movement to rewrite American colonial history from the imperial point of view and from official papers in the English Public Record Office. The book will be welcomed by students of Virginian history because it describes clearly, though quite summarily, the financial administrators of colonial Virginia. One lays down the volume with a more definite understanding of how the finances of Virginia were managed than is derived from Bruce's treatment of the subject for a briefer period in his *Institutional History*, II, 522-604. The author is concerned primarily with about fifteen classes of officials—how appointed, their functions in theory and practice, and their remunerations. In the eighteenth century there were about twenty royal officers occupied with royal revenues and about one hundred and fifty provincial officials. Those from England were generally obscure office seekers and appear to have been less faithful

to the public service than the provincial officials, among whom were a few able men. Functions were needlessly duplicated, unless there was some virtue in a system of checks. While salaries were not large, fees were exorbitant. Treasurers, like John Robinson, were in the habit of loaning government funds in their keeping and appropriating the profits. A receiver-general in the eighteenth century served on an average about fourteen years and, with a salary of £800 plus fees, the position must have been lucrative. Some offices were purchasable, *e.g.*, inspectorships of tobacco. The postal system was regarded as a means of obtaining revenue; rates were excessive and much mail traveled privately to evade postal "duties." The influence of great English merchants on appointments to service in Virginia and on the management of finances is touched upon. The part they played as "bankers" for colonial officials and planters in the credit operations of the period deserves the attention of historians of the colonies. In this connection Dr. Flippin points out the influence of Micajah Perry and Company in the sixteenth century and of J. and C. Hanbury and the African Company in the eighteenth. Companies of such standing secured limitations of the issue of paper money and prompt repeals of colonial acts that discriminated in favor of Virginian owned ships.

The study is quite free from errors of fact or judgment. However, the statement (p. 67) that British merchants were influential in having the Townshend duties passed is supported only by an inference from a letter of Botetourt. The unjust estimate of Virginia's contribution to the French War, which is attributed to Mr. Beer (p. 77), is simply Mr. Beer's paraphrase of a letter of Loudoun (*British Colonial Policy 1754-1756*, pp. 58-59). It is stated (pp. vii, 83) that discontent in the colony usually can be traced to interference with its economic and financial affairs. But too little attention is paid, even after 1760, to just what this interference was and how it affected Virginia. Taxation itself, as distinct from "financial administration," is too briefly treated (pp. 9-21) in a work of this character. However, the study is offered only as a forerunner of a larger treatise on Royal Government in Virginia.

FRANK W. PITMAN.

Yale University.

The Canadian Commonwealth. By AGNES C. LAUT. Problems of the Nations, edited by PAUL LELAND HAWORTH. (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. 1915. Pp. 343. \$1.50.)